

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185690
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLJAMESON:PAW
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
D/HA:KHILL (DRAFT)
L:GALDRICH (DRAFT)
AF/W:DKILLION

-----019471 070835Z /10

R 061813Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AG, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SAHARA QUESTION

REF: ALGIERS, 1752, 1807

1. DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS VIEW THAT WESTERN SAHARA IS
ESSENTIALLY A POLITICAL PROBLEM WHICH CAN BEST BE RESOLVED
ON A REGIONAL LEVEL BY THOSE MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED,
POSSIBLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF APPROPRIATE REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AS A LEGAL QUESTION, THE U.S.
RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA
TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADVISORY
OPINION OF THE ICJ, AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS RIGHT
HAS NOT YET BEEN EXERCISED. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
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THAT THIS LEGAL ANALYSIS, BY ITSELF, PROVIDES A PRODUCTIVE
BASIS FOR REACHING A VIABLE SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION AND WE
DO NOT WANT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN THESE TERMS WITH THE
GOA OR OTHERS. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA OFFICIALS REGARD-
ING THE SAHARA, U.S. POSITION SHOULD REMAIN THAT STATED IN
SECRETARY'S JUNE 22 LETTER TO BOUTEFLIKA. WE WISH TO
AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION THAT A RECONSIDERATION OF OUR

POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OR OTHER, GROUNDS WILL BE FORTH-
COMING.

2. QUESTION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SAHARAN
REFUGEES IS SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.

3. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY HAS BEEN POUCHED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, REFUGEES, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE185690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLJAMESON:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770283-1209
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770888/aaaacwnw.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e0e65160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1682554
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SAHARA QUESTION
TAGS: PDIP, AG, US
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0e65160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009